

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions in this patent application.

Listing of Claims

- 1.(currently amended) A manual mobile apparatus for harvesting aquatic algae or floating vegetation in shallow areas of water that does not disturb the water bottom ecology comprising:
 - a perforated self-draining deck with wheels on a transverse axle-axle;
 - said wheels are hollow and are capable of adjusting the buoyancy of said apparatus by adding or subtracting water/air into said hollow wheel;
 - said wheels are thermoplastic and means are provided to close holes in the wheels to maintain a desired buoyancy of the wheels having air and water within the wheels;
 - means attached to said deck including a flexible plastic grid enclosed on all

sides and by a top cover to collect the cut aquatic vegetation; and
a manual push or pull handle attached to said deck with wheels with vertical
mobility from front to back over the deck that can reverse direction of motion
without turning the apparatus.

2. (original) The harvester of Claim 1 wherein said handle is vertically moveable in an
arc of up to 180 degrees so that said harvester can be pushed or pulled without
turning said harvester.
3. (original) The harvester of claim 1 wherein said means for collecting said vegetation
is a flexible plastic grid or net.
4. (cancelled)
5. (original) The harvester of Claim 1 and further comprising:
a non-on-board power source to aid in the movement of said harvester.
6. (cancelled)
7. (currently amended) The method for harvesting surface growing algae or floating
vegetation that does not disturb the water ecology comprising:
providing a harvester with a deck and wheeled means including hollow wheels
connected to said deck;
moving said harvester through said vegetation at a set height above said water

bottom;

said set height is adjusted by means of the buoyancy of the hollow wheels of said deck and said wheeled means wherein water/air fills the hollow wheels to maintain buoyancy; and

providing an anchored floating mooring buoy with a pulley and ropes attached to said harvester handle that allows the harvester to be moved forward or in reverse direction and to controllably harvest said vegetation; and

skimming, compacting and collecting said algae or vegetation on said deck wherein said water bottom ecology is unaffected by the said harvesting.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein moving said deck wheeled means is moved by a handle that can be moved in an arc of up to 180 degrees so as to be able to either push or pull said harvester without turning the harvester.
9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said moving said harvester is done with aid of a non-on-board power source.
10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said non-on-board power source is carried on a boat which has a connection to said harvester to aid in said moving of said harvester.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~910~~ wherein said non-on-board power source is carried on the shore which has a connection to said harvester to aid in said moving of said harvester.

12. (cancelled)

13. (new) A manual mobile apparatus for harvesting aquatic algae or floating vegetation in shallow areas of water that does not disturb the water bottom ecology comprising:
a perforated self-draining deck with wheels on a transverse axle;
said wheels are hollow and are capable of adjusting the buoyancy of said apparatus by adding or subtracting water/air into said hollow wheel;
means attached to said deck including a flexible plastic grid enclosed on all sides and by a top cover to collect the cut aquatic vegetation;
a manual push or pull handle attached to said deck with wheels with vertical mobility from front to back over the deck that can reverse direction of motion without turning the apparatus; and
an anchored floating mooring buoy with a pulley and ropes attached to said mobile apparatus handle that allows the apparatus to be moved forward or in reverse direction and to controllably harvest said vegetation.

14. (new) The method for sequentially first cutting and harvesting bottom growing aquatic vegetation and second harvesting surface growing algae or floating vegetation in shallow areas of water that does not disturb the water bottom ecology comprising:

providing a harvester with a deck wheeled means connected to said deck and means attached to said deck including a flexible plastic grid enclosed on all sides and by a top cover to collect the cut aquatic vegetation;

first moving said harvester through said vegetation at a first set height above said water bottom to cut said bottom growing vegetation;

compacting said vegetation and wedging the vegetation against a cutting means for cutting said vegetation;

cutting and collecting the cut said vegetation on said deck into said flexible plastic grid wherein said water bottom ecology is unaffected by the said cutting and harvesting;

secondly moving said harvester at a second set height above said water bottom to harvest said surface growing algae or floating vegetation; and

removing said flexible plastic grid from said deck and disposing of the cut and floating harvested said vegetation from said flexible plastic grid.